



Move to the Right for Sirens and Lights!

If you or someone you love is in need of emergency assistance, you want help to get there right away. Did you know that there is one thing everyone can do to help the firefighters provide this emergency assistance as quickly as possible? It is as simple as *Moving to the Right for Sirens and Lights!*

Every year in the U.S., there are almost 16,000 collisions involving fire department emergency vehicles while responding to or returning from incidents. These collisions result in over 1,000 firefighter injuries and almost fifty deaths.

Many people panic or simply do not adhere to the rules of the road for approaching emergency vehicles. The law is very specific; drivers must yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle, and failure to do so can cause serious accidents or delays in ambulances, fire engines and fire trucks arriving at the scene of an emergency. Firefighters are careful to avoid vehicle collisions by driving slowly when traveling against traffic, or coming to a complete stop at intersections. However, the cooperation of ALL vehicles on the roadway is essential.

There are some simple rules to follow when you are on the road and encounter an emergency vehicle:

DO:

- Stay calm.
- Pull to the right and come to a complete stop.
- If you are traveling on a high-speed road or if there is no room to stop, slow down as much as possible.
- If you are in the left lane, pull over into the right lane as traffic in the lane to your right moves over.
- If you cannot move to the right because of another vehicle or obstacle, just stop. Your action will let the driver of the emergency vehicle know what you are doing and allow the driver to anticipate where to drive.
- When an emergency vehicle approaches you from behind while you are stopped at an intersection, stay where you are unless you can pull to the right.
- On a 4-lane highway or street without barriers, both sides of traffic should pull to the right.
- Be careful when driving by or around a motor vehicle accident or any situation where emergency vehicles are parked and the firefighters are working.
- Drivers should stay at least 500 feet (the distance covered by five utility poles) behind emergency vehicles.

DON'T:

- Don't panic.
- Don't play your radio so loudly that you are unable to hear sirens.
- Don't stop in the middle lane when there is room to pull to the right.
- Don't pull to the left in the center lane or left turn lane.
- Don't race ahead to make the green light or turn before the emergency vehicle gets there.
- Don't turn quickly to the left onto a street or driveway.
- Don't drive through a red light or stop sign when an emergency vehicle approaches from behind.
- If the emergency vehicle is traveling on the opposite direction of a divided highway or street, you do not need to pull over.
- Don't disregard the presence of the emergency vehicle by continuing to drive.

For more information on *Move to the Right for Sirens and Lights*, call the City of Newton Fire Department (828)695-4314.